

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please make the following changes in the specification:

**At column 2, the previously amended paragraph at line 15- line 36 should be replaced by the following:**

Thus, according to a first embodiment, the invention is a curable cyclobutarene based polymer comprising acid functional pendant groups. "Curable polymer" as used herein includes polymers that can be further cured or crosslinked as well as oligomers that can be further reacted to form higher molecular weight polymeric materials.

Preferably, the acid functional groups are present at equivalent weights of about 200 to about 564, more preferably about 200 to about 434, more preferably still about 200 to about 330 g/mole of acid functionality, more preferably about 220 to about 300 g/mole of acid functionality, and most preferably about 230 to about 270 g/mole of acid functionality. ~~For the preferred monomer (a) 1,3-bis(2-bicyclo{4.2.0}octa-1,3,5-trien-3-yl ethenyl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethylsiloxane (referred to herein as DVS-bisBCB) and BCB-acrylic acid as made in Example 1, an equivalent weight of less than about 440 g/mole of acid functionality provides solubility in alkaline aqueous solutions.~~ If the amount of acid groups is too low, the material will be insufficiently soluble in aqueous base. If the amount of acid groups becomes too high, water retention by the polymer may become a problem in certain uses or applications of the material.